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CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 19-21 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter thereof and add new claims 22-27.

1. (currently amended) An echogenic medical device comprising a porous polymeric material having a second acoustic impedance that is at least a portion of a structural component of an echogenic medical device having a first acoustic impedance, and
a plurality of porous particles,
wherein said porous particles comprise one of porous polyethylene beads and hollow glass beads,
wherein the plurality of porous particles are sufficiently porous to result in a weight gain of between about 10% and about 30% upon immersion in an aqueous solution,
wherein individual particles have a diameter dimension between about one micrometer and about one millimeter, and
wherein the structural component comprises one of: a medical electrical lead, an implantable stent, a central venous catheter, a guidewire, a midline catheter, an interventional catheter, a shunts, a cannula, a drainage tube, a vena cava filter, a biopsy needle.
2. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the porous polymeric material is preparable by providing a phase separated composition comprising a polymer and an extractable material, and extracting the extractable material from the composition, and wherein the extractable material comprises one of: a salt, an oil material, and a surfactant material.
- 3.-5. (canceled)

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6. (currently amended) A method for preparing an echogenically enhanced medical device, the method comprising:

providing a phase separated composition comprising a polymer and an extractable material;

shaping the composition to form at least a portion of an echogenic medical device having a first impedance; and

extracting the extractable material from the composition to create a second acoustic impedance,

wherein the polymer comprises a plurality of porous particles and the porous particles comprise between about one percent (by weight) and about 50% (by weight) based on the weight of the polymer.

7.-15 (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method for preparing an echogenically enhanced medical device, the method comprising:

providing at least a structural component of the medical device having a first acoustic impedance;

providing a polymer that is curable by irradiation with ultraviolet light;

blending porous particles with the polymer to produce a composition that is curable by irradiation with ultraviolet light;

applying the composition to the structural component of the medical device; and

curing the composition by irradiation with one of ultraviolet light radiation and visible light radiation to create a second acoustic impedance, wherein said ultraviolet light radiation has a wavelength of between about 250 nanometers to about 400 nanometers and said visible light radiation has a wavelength of between about 400 nanometers to about 700 nanometers.

17.-21. (canceled)

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22. (new) A method according to claim 16, wherein the medical device comprises at least one of:

a medical electrical lead, an implantable stent, a central venous catheter, a guidewire, a midline catheter, an interventional catheter, a shunts, a cannula, a drainage tube, a vena cava filter, a biopsy needle.

23. (new) A method according to claim 22, wherein the structural component is fabricated from one of: a metal material, a plastic material, a ceramic material, a resin-based material.

24. (new) A method according to claim 6, wherein the extractable material comprises one of: a salt, an oil material, and a surfactant material.

25. (new) A method according to claim 24, wherein the salt comprises one of: a sodium chloride, a potassium chloride, a sodium iodide

26. (new) A method according to claim 24, wherein the oil material comprises one of: a soy oil, a palm grain oil, a grapeseed oil, a peanut oil, a sunflower oil.

27. (new) A medical device according to claim 1, wherein the structural component is fabricated from one of: a metal material, a plastic material, a ceramic material, a resin-based material.